

Section A - EQUALITY ANALYSIS TEMPLATE

You must complete this in conjunction with reading Equality Analysis Guidance

Name of Policy/Decision/Project/Activity:

Proposed commissioning intentions for Public Health Services in General Practice from 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2027

Date: 27/04/2022

Version Number: 1

Equality Analysis completed by:

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Job title: Public Health Lead

Responsible Officer or Group:

Name: Gerry Taylor

Job title: Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning

Is the Activity:

New/Proposed ()

Changing/Being Reviewed (X)

Other ()

Part 1. Purpose and Scope

Purpose

In this section outline briefly:

- what the policy, decision or activity is and what the intended outcomes/benefits are (linked to the Corporate Outcomes Framework)
- over what period of time the outcomes will be achieved
- why it needs to be implemented or revised
- what populations are affected by the proposal
- who is expected to benefit and how, i.e. young people, older people, carers, BME groups, ward areas/communities, etc
- whether there are any overlaps with regional, sub-regional, national priorities.

Further Guidance

Background

Further to the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities have responsibility for improving the health of the local population. In order to do so, they often commission services from local General Practices that aim to improve health. This has a number of benefits, in particular relating to the accessibility of practices in local communities as well as integration of health improvement services within wider health care delivery.

In Sunderland, a range of services are commissioned in this way. These are:

- a. NHS Health Checks – a holistic check to assess risk of developing cardiovascular diseases such as stroke or coronary heart disease. This is identified as a mandatory public health service.
- b. Smoking Cessation Services – these aim to provide behavioural support and access to appropriate smoking cessation medications for those that wish to give up smoking tobacco.
- c. Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) – LARC is deemed the most reliable form of contraception and once administered is effective for an extended period. It can also be reversed as required.

These services are currently in place via direct contracting arrangements between the Council and General Practices until 31st December 2022. As such, the proposal looks to establish commissioning intentions to further develop and sustain these services for the coming years.

Proposed Decision

The main decision associated with the commissioning intentions is to establish joint commissioning arrangements with Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) / its successor NHS commissioning body to enable Public Health Services in General Practices to be commissioned via the local Quality Premium Scheme for a period of up to 4 years from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2027. In order to facilitate this, the current contracts must be extended by 3 months.

Policy and Guidance

In terms of the services themselves, delivery of the NHS Health Check programme is mandated with the public health responsibilities of local authorities. Therefore, it must be put in place in some form. As general practice provides access across local populations, it is a natural way in which to deliver the programme. Additionally, as the programme requires access to the medical records of the person receiving an NHS Health Check, general practices are uniquely placed to provide access easily and to ensure that the results of the checks are integrated into the wider medical record.

Though smoking cessation services are not mandated for local authorities, they are evidence based and proven to help reduce the prevalence of smoking. Despite decreases in prevalence of smoking in Sunderland, the city continues to have comparatively high levels of smokers – during 2020 14.6% of adults in Sunderland were identified as current smokers, compared to 13.6% across the North East and 12.1% across England. As such, there continues to be a need to maximise access to smoking cessation services. General Practices have proved a popular choice for residents to access smoking cessation in recent years.

Provision of open access contraception services is a mandated function for local authorities. LARC is recognised as the most effective form of contraception and is therefore recommended as a way to help reduce unplanned pregnancies. Again, delivery via General Practices helps enable access to LARC in local communities and increases choice alongside other forms of access, such as specialist services or pharmacies.

As part of the implementation of the Health and Care Act 2022, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) will be formally established from 01 July 2022. Amongst the responsibilities of ICBs will be those relating to establishing place based commissioning arrangements for health and care services. These aim to help deliver services in integrated and localised ways. As such, this proposal aims to contribute positively to the approach by developing a place-based approach to commissioning local authority public health services in collaboration with the local NHS system.

Intelligence and Analysis

Please describe:

- What sources of information have been used to inform this assessment/analysis (this should include but is not limited to consultations, resident/service user feedback and statistical data and intelligence)
- **What the information is telling you** – this should be broken down by each of the protected characteristics or other identified groups which could be disadvantaged. Each of the aims of the equality act should be considered in relation to each of the protected characteristics.

Further Guidance

The Public Health Outcomes Framework indicates that Sunderland experiences comparatively poor outcomes in a number of areas that the services within the scope of this proposal are designed to help address. In particular:

- Sunderland continues to see high levels of smoking when compared to other areas. During 2020 14.6% of adults in Sunderland were identified as current smokers, compared to 13.6% across the North East and 12.1% across England. Those in routine and manual occupations in Sunderland have a higher prevalence of smoking at 18.4%. Additionally, within Sunderland more women smoke during pregnancy (15.1% in 2020, compared to 13.3% across the North East and 9.6% across England); this places both mothers and their children at risk of smoking-related ill health. Most recent data (Q2 2021/22) indicates that over 50% of successful smoking quits in Sunderland were through services delivered in General Practice.
- The rate of mortality in those under the age of 75 from cardiovascular diseases for Sunderland remains high at 89.6 per 100,000 in 2020. This is amongst the highest in the North East region where the overall rate per 100,000 was 83.9 and higher than England as a whole where the rate was 73.8 per 100,000. Alongside this, the delivery of the NHS Health Check programme was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic from March 2020, when it was de-prioritised by the Department of Health and Social Care to help reduce transmission of the virus via face to face appointments in practices and other settings. Therefore, there is a continued need to improve uptake of NHS Health Checks in the coming years to help detect and prevent cardiovascular disease.
- The conception rate amongst under 18s in Sunderland has shown a steady decline, particularly from 2008. However, the most recent rate of conceptions per 1,000 was 21.7 (2020). This is still significantly higher than the rate across England which is 13.0 per 1,000 and higher than rate for the North East which is 18.6 per 1,000. By providing access to LARC in practices, local residents (both under the age of 18 and of other ages) will be able to receive highly effective contraception to help ensure that unplanned pregnancies are minimised.

The GP Patient Survey for 2021 ([GP Patient Survey \(gp-patient.co.uk\)](https://gp-patient.co.uk)) indicates that users of General Practices in Sunderland report comparatively high levels of satisfaction with the services delivered locally with 87% describing their experience of their practice as “Very Good” or “Fairly Good” – this compares to 83% nationally. Whilst this is not linked to delivery of specific services, general high levels of satisfaction should indicate that practices offer a positive environment for local residents to access services.

The proposal has been developed in consultation with Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure that it is aligned with local NHS commissioning intentions and modes of delivery.

Gaps in intelligence and information

Having analysed the information available to you:

- are there any gaps in intelligence or areas where understanding needs to be improved? Please describe what these are and what actions you intend to take to obtain/improve the information. These actions should be covered in the action plan.
- are there any groups who should be expected to benefit who do not? Please describe why not and whether you will amend the decision to change this outcome. This should also be covered in the action plan.

[Further Guidance](#)

Not applicable.

Additional Impacts

The policy or action may also have an impact on other groups or individuals which are not covered by statutory requirements. Please outline any additional individuals or groups which have not already been covered. This could include socio-economic groups, voluntary and community sector, carers or specific communities which face additional challenges (such as former coal mining areas or areas of high deprivation)

[Further Guidance](#)

Evidence shows that the most deprived wards in Sunderland have the highest smoking, cardiovascular disease and teenage pregnancy rates, it is anticipated that the proposal will help enable targeting of preventative interventions within these areas. This will have a positive impact on changing behaviour and preventing ill-health.

Part 2. Analysis of Impact on People

In this section you must **review the intelligence described above and summarise the intended and potential impact of the policy, decision or activity** on the people of Sunderland. This includes specific consideration of the impact on individuals, groups with protected characteristics and communities of interest within the city. Please briefly outline any positive, neutral or negative impacts on the specific groups below. Please note that any negative impacts should have a corresponding action in the action plan in the page below.

In this assessment it is important to remember the **Council is required to give due regard to:**

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Each of these aims must be summarised in turn in relation to the groups outlined below.

[Further Guidance](#)

Characteristic	List of Impacts		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	Services within the scope of the proposal are for both adults and young people. It is anticipated they will have a positive impact on people of all ages, for example by reducing smoking in pregnancy, reducing unplanned pregnancies, preventing early onset of cardiovascular disease and preventing illnesses related to smoking.		
Disability		Services within the scope of the proposal will be delivered in a way which does not discriminate based on disability.	
Gender/Sex		Services within the scope of the proposal are provided for all residents, irrespective of gender/sex.	
Marriage & Civil Partnership		Services within the scope of the proposal are will ensure that messages use are suitable for people who are married or in a civil partnership.	

Pregnancy and maternity	It is anticipated that the proposal will have a positive impact on pregnancy and maternity as it will help reduce tobacco use during pregnancy. It will also help support women to plan pregnancies by offering wider access to effective long term contraception.		
Race/Ethnicity		Services within the scope of the proposal will be required to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure effective access for people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.	
Religion/belief		Services within the scope of the proposal will be required to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure effective access for people of all religions and beliefs.	
Sexual Orientation		Services within the scope of the proposal will be required to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure effective access for people of all sexual orientations.	
Gender identity		Services within the scope of the proposal will be required to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and ensure effective access for people of all gender identities.	

Please add any additional groups mentioned in the “additional impacts” section above.

Part 3. Response to Analysis, Action Plan and Monitoring

In this section please outline what actions you propose to take to minimise the negative, and maximise the positive, impacts that have been identified through the analysis. By considering and implementing these actions the policy or action can be refined to make sure that the greatest benefits are achieved for the people of Sunderland. The performance monitoring process should also be set out to explain how ongoing progress is going to be followed to make sure that the aims are met.

From the analysis four broad approaches can be taken, (No major change; continue with the policy/action despite negative implications; adjust the policy/decision/action; or stop the policy/action). Please indicate, using the list below, which is proposed.

No Major Change (**X**)

Continue Despite Negative Implications ()

Adjust the Policy/Decision/Project/Activity ()

Stop ()

Action Plan

[Further Guidance](#)

ACTION	WHO	WHEN	MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS TEMPLATE IS PUBLISHED ON <http://citypoint/equalityanalysis/default.aspx>, WITH THE RELEVANT ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION APPENDED, i.e. POLICY/STRATEGY. THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS MUST BE PRESENTED AT ANY DECISION POINT.